AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a ceramic sheet, the method comprising steps of:

sandwiching a first green sheet between spacers;

baking the first green sheet while the first green sheet is sandwiched between the spacers; and

producing a ceramic sheet having not more than 5 defects in an area of 900 mm^2 from the first green sheet, wherein

each of the spacers is ~~a either a second green sheet or~~ a calcined sheet ~~each~~ comprising spherical ceramic particles having an average particle diameter of 0.1 to less than 5 μm as a main component.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the content of the spherical ceramic particles is 80 wt% or larger with respect to the weight of the total ceramics contained in each of the spacers.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method ~~according to claims 5 or 6~~ for producing a ceramic sheet, the method comprising steps of:

sandwiching a first green sheet between spacers;

baking the first green sheet while the first green sheet is sandwiched between the spacers; and

producing a ceramic sheet having not more than 5 defects in an area of 900 mm^2 from the first green sheet, wherein

each of the spacers is either a second green sheet or a calcined sheet each comprising spherical ceramic particles having an average particle diameter of 0.1 to less than 5 μm as a main component, and

each of the spacers has a sintering temperature ~~of~~ 50 to 300°C higher than the sintering temperature of the first green sheet.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method ~~according to claims 5 or 6~~ for producing a ceramic sheet, the method comprising steps of:

sandwiching a first green sheet between spacers;

baking the first green sheet while the first green sheet is sandwiched between the spacers; and

producing a ceramic sheet having not more than 5 defects in an area of 900 mm^2 from the first green sheet, wherein

each of the spacers is either a second green sheet or a calcined sheet each comprising spherical ceramic particles having an average particle diameter of 0.1 to less than 5 μm as a main component,

at least one of the spacers is the second green sheet, and

the baking calcines the at least one of the spacers to form at least one porous sheet having a porosity of 5 to 60%.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method according to claims 5 or 6, wherein the spacers comprise the second green sheet; and the second green sheet includes ceramic particles 80 wt% or more of which are spherical ceramic particles having an average particle diameter of 0.1 to less than 5 μm.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to claims 5 or 6, wherein the spacers comprise the calcined sheet; and the calcined sheet includes ceramic particles 80 wt% or more of which are spherical ceramic particles having an average particle diameter of 0.1 to less than 5 μm.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the spherical ceramic particles have a ratio of a major axis thereof relative to a minor axis thereof of 1 to 3.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein the spherical ceramic particles have a ratio of a major axis thereof relative to a minor axis thereof of 1 to 3.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (New) The method according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the calcined sheet is obtained by calcining a second green sheet at a temperature that is 50 to 300°C lower than a sintering temperature of the second green sheet.